

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A sintered oil retaining bearing having a bearing body that is composed of a porous body formed of a sintered metal and that is formed with a bearing surface opposed, through a bearing clearance, to the outer peripheral surface of a shaft to be supported, said bearing body being impregnated with lubricating oil or lubricating grease, said sintered oil retaining bearing being characterized in that the surface openings in said bearing surface are substantially uniform in size, and in that when the area of a single such surface opening is converted into the area of a circle, the diameter of such circle does not exceed 0.05 mm.

2. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 1, characterized in that the proportion of the surface area occupied by the surface openings to the total bearing surface is 10% or less.

3. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a plurality of bearing surfaces are located in axially spaced places, and the inner diameter of the region between bearing surfaces is greater than the inner diameter of the bearing surfaces.

4. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that said bearing surface is formed with axially inclined hydrodynamic grooves.

5. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 3, characterized in that said bearing surfaces are formed with axially inclined hydrodynamic grooves.

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6. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the shaft opposed to said bearing surface through the bearing clearance is a rotary shaft on which a rotary element of information equipment is mounted and that is driven for rotation by the exciting force that develops between a stator and a rotor.

7. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 3, characterized in that the shaft opposed to said bearing surfaces through the bearing clearances is a rotary shaft on which a rotary element of information equipment is mounted and that is driven for rotation by the exciting force that develops between a stator and a rotor.

8. A sintered oil retaining bearing as set forth in Claim 4, characterized in that the shaft opposed to said bearing surface through the bearing clearance is a rotary shaft on which a rotary element of information equipment is mounted and that is driven for rotation by the exciting force that develops between a stator and a rotor.

9. A spindle motor for information equipment including a rotary shaft on which a rotary element of information equipment is mounted, a bearing rotatably supporting said rotary shaft, a rotor mounted on said rotary shaft or a rotary member rotating with said rotary shaft, and a stator mounted on a stationary member, said spindle motor being characterized in that said bearing is a sintered oil retaining bearing having a bearing body that is composed of a porous body formed of a sintered metal and that is formed with a bearing surface opposed

to the outer peripheral surface of the rotary shaft through a bearing clearance, said bearing body being impregnated with lubricating oil or lubricating grease, and in that surface openings in said bearing surface are substantially uniform in size and when the area of a single such surface opening is converted into the area of a circle, the diameter of such circle does not exceed 0.05 mm.

Sub B1- 10. A method of producing a sintered oil retaining bearing having a cylindrical bearing body composed of a porous body formed of a sintered metal, said method being characterized in that when a metal powder is to be cylindrically compacted using a forming die and forming core rod, a relative motion is imparted between the forming core rod and the metal powder after the metal powder has been charged into the forming die.

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